

Remarks

Claims 1-37 are currently pending.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the claims of Group I (claims 1-17). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, in view of the remarks presented herein, is respectfully requested.

The restriction requirement is traversed on the basis that Restriction Requirements are optional in all cases. M.P.E.P. § 803. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it arguably may include claims to distinct or independent inventions. M.P.E.P. § 803. Moreover, it is submitted that Applicant should not be required to incur the additional costs associated with the filing of multiple divisional applications in order to obtain protection for the claimed subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the claims in Groups I (claims 1-17) II (claims 18-32) and III (claims 33-37) can be efficiently and effectively searched in a single search with no additional burden placed on the Examiner. Specifically, the search of the claims in Group I (claims 1-17) would likely identify art relevant to the claims in Groups II (claims 27-30) and III (claims 33-37). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits no additional burden would be placed on the Examiner to examine the claims of Groups I, II and III.

Thus, the Restriction Requirement has been properly traversed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Serial Number: 10/676,487

Filing Date: October 1, 2003

Title: REMOVABLE MARKING SYSTEM

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Dkt: 1153.012US2

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6905 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

April 7, 2006

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 7th day of April, 2006.

Name

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Signature

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